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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

21 June 1961

Draft

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: The Turkish Situation

1. Evidence on the present power struggle in Turkey is still incomplete and contradictory, but so far as we can judge, the conflict has ranged the senior, conservative CNU generals (including Chief of State Gursel) against the more radical junior CNU members and most of the top military commanders. The latter faction apparently believes that the CNU having taken on overall civilian authority, should leave the administration of military affairs to the active commanders. What began as a move by the senior group to replace the Turkish Air Force Chief -- possibly for sheer personal reasons -- soon developed into a struggle over this broader question, and the outcome may affect Turkey's political future.

2. The military commanders and the junior officers have evidently won out so far, though they have stopped short of

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removing Gursel or overturning the CNU. They have succeeded in forcing out conservative General Madanoglu, who had been commander of the Ankara military garrison and a leading spirit of the CNU. All factions involved in the struggle have taken considerable pains to emphasize their devotion to the democratic process and their determination to hold elections on schedule -- sometime before the end of October. There are strong pressures on them to fulfill this commitment. There is reason to believe, however, that the junior CNU members are more authoritarian in their outlook and, consequently, that the chances for elections being held on time have been reduced to no better than even. Additionally, the military and the junior CNU types are more disposed to press for stiff penalties, including execution, for the principal defenders in the Yassiada trials. The Republican Peoples Party of Inonu has probably lost some ground as a result of these events, since its chief supporter in the CNU was General Madanoglu.

3. In the fields of foreign policy and economics, we see little if any change from that stated in the Board's Memorandum to you of 31 May 1961.* The Turks will remain anti-Soviet and

* Prepared in response to a request from Mr. Rostow through Mr. Amory.

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pro-West -- although prolonged bickering within the military would tend to reduce the effectiveness of the Turkish armed forces. The regime will probably continue in the economic field to lay the groundwork for future advances and to avoid the uncoordinated spending which characterized the Menderes regime. The recent incidents have hardly affected the economy in any basic way, though the added uncertainties attendant on this will inhibit business activity -- already plagued by stagnation since the junta took over in 1960.

4. A new estimate on Turkey is already scheduled for completion in the Fourth Quarter, in response to a White House Staff request which called for emphasis on assessing basic economic trends in Turkey.

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